

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A method of processing requests from location-based service applications for location-based services provided by a plurality of disparate location-based service providers, comprising the steps of the location service:
  - receiving requests for location based-services;
  - determining from each said request a particular location-based service provider which can service said request;
  - specifically formatting each said request according to a specific format specified by said particular location-based service provider;
  - uniformly formatting each said result set; and,
  - forwarding said uniformly formatted result sets to the location-based service applications.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said uniformly formatted result sets are result sets which have been formatted according to the Geography Markup Language (GML).
3. A common location-based service adapter interface, comprising:
  - a uniform input interface through which location-based services can be requested using a uniform format which is independent of any specific formatting required by a particular service adapter configured to process said location-based services; and,

6 and a uniform output interface through which specifically formatted result sets  
7 can be formatted using said uniform format.

1 4. The common location-based service adapter interface of claim 3, wherein said  
2 uniform input interface comprises:

3 a plurality of location-based service adapter objects, each said adapter object  
4 being configured to provide said at least one location-based service responsive to  
5 receiving a uniformly formatted location-based service request;

6 a location service object configured to provide a reference to a particular one of  
7 said location-based service adapter objects based upon a specified location-based  
8 service; and,

9 a plurality of location request objects configured to define location-based service  
10 request parameters required by generic ones of said location-based service adapter  
11 objects.

1 5. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for  
2 processing requests from location-based service applications for location-based  
3 services provided by a plurality of disparate location-based service providers, the  
4 computer program comprising a routine set of instructions for causing the machine to  
5 perform the steps of:

6 receiving requests for location based-services;

7 determining from each said request a particular location-based service provider  
8 which can service said request;

9 specifically formatting each said request according to a specific format specified  
10 by said particular location-based service provider, and uniformly formatting each said  
11 result set; and,  
12 forwarding said uniformly formatted result sets to the location-based service  
13 applications.

1 6. The machine readable storage of claim 5, wherein said uniformly formatted  
2 result sets are result sets which have been formatted according to the Geography  
3 Markup Language (GML).